

are celebrating. Even though it is the middle of winter, cold with snow (not weather that Cecile appreciated), we bless, and offer up this bread and wine in memory of God's love and compassion for us, and in memory of Cecile's presence, that of death as well as life eternal.

We celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, knowing that this gives special meaning to all our family reunions and human relationships. God's presence is everywhere, giving meaning to the presence of Cecile's absence. "The presence of that absence is everywhere," in the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

We don't just use these humble gifts of bread and wine. Rather we let them speak to us of joy and sorrow, of presence and absence, of faithfulness and sacrifice. The Eucharist reminds us that it is God's gift to us to be fruitful. It is a human activity to be productive, a divine gift to be fruitful. In this Eucharist/sacrament, we receive that gift from God. For that gift, and for peace, we now give thanks.

In the words of the Kaddish, "May God who establishes peace in the heavens, grant peace unto us and unto all Israel, And say yes, Amen."

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Marcelle and I loved our parents and we were loved by them. During the past decade and a half, we have seen them all leave—Howard, Phil, Alba, and Cecile. Such good friends and such good parents are in our memories today.

It is strange, but I still find myself stopping momentarily now and then as if to call each of them, perhaps to say thank you for all each gave, to tell them their love will live on in their children and their grandchildren, but I think they knew that. They knew how much their children loved them. They knew how much their grandchildren loved them. And at a time when it becomes almost a cliché to talk about family values, our parents gave such great family values to us. The love of all the children for them has been so strong, and the grandchildren, especially, were fortunate to have grandparents that they could know and love.

We lost Cecile last February, but this February, a year later, her first great grandchild, Roan Seamus Nichols Leahy, joined the family. Knowing Cecile, she would consider this timing quite fitting, and her wonderful heart, if she were still alive, would expand to include him in her love with all the rest of us.

I say au revoir, Maman.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allocated the time that has been assigned to Senator DORGAN as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you.

TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, at the outset I would like to say to my colleagues in the Senate and those who are witnessing this Chamber this morning that we have a unique opportunity this year to do something of value not only for the children of this country but for many others. It relates to an issue that I have been involved in for over 10 years. It started a little over 10 years ago when as a Congressman from Illinois I was about to catch an airplane in Phoenix, AZ, to Chicago, but, as usual, I was late. I came rushing into the airport in Phoenix, AZ, put my ticket on the counter of United Airlines, and said to the flight attendant, "Can I make this plane?" She punched it into the computer and said, "You can if you hurry." I said, "Can you get me a seat in the nonsmoking section?" She punched it into the computer, and said, "No. I am sorry. It is too late. The only seat we have is a middle seat in the smoking section." I looked at her, and I said, "I know I am in a hurry, but isn't there something you can do?" She looked at my ticket, and she looked at my title, and she looked me in the eye, and said, "No; but, Congressman, there is something you can do."

So I got on that airplane and flew from Phoenix to Chicago seated between two sumo wrestlers chain smoking the whole way. I turned my air vents on, one and then the other, and realized when I got off that plane that my clothes were stinking, my sinuses were clogged, and I was grumpy. But I still would be alive. I looked a couple of rows away and saw a woman with a tiny baby and, on the other side of the plane, an elderly person. I thought to myself, this doesn't make any sense at all. Why do we let people smoke away in the cabin of an airplane and endanger the health and lives of other people?

So I came to Washington and in 1987 introduced legislation to ban smoking on airplanes. I never dreamed that it would be successful. In fact, it was the first time in its history that the tobacco lobby had lost a major vote on the regulation of their product on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was a bipartisan effort. I never would have succeeded without the intervention of Senator Claude Pepper, who was chairman of the House Rules Committee, my friend; and Mike Synar, the late Congressman from Oklahoma; HENRY WAXMAN of California, and some others.

It really started in my political career an effort to take a close look at tobacco. Now, almost 11 years later, that wave that was just starting to rise in 1987 is about to crest in 1998. We have a chance now to not just deal with the annoyance and danger of secondhand smoke but something much, much bigger. We have a chance to enact legislation in 1998 that will dramatically change, in America, our view of tobacco as a product for sale. If we

are successful, if we do our job, we will finally say that the law in every State in the Nation which bans the sale of tobacco products to children will be enforced. What a breakthrough that would be for us to finally come to grips with the fact that these tobacco companies with their insidious strategy and their advertising have been going after our kids. That is it.

They lose 2 million of their best smokers each year; 400,000 die from tobacco-related diseases, and 1.5 million or so quit. Well, if you are in the corporate board room of RJR or Philip Morris, you say, "I have a problem. Two million customers gone. We have to replace these customers. Where are we going to go?"

Well, we found out as we have surveyed that when a person reaches the age of 18 and beyond, they are less likely to decide for the first time to smoke. They are a little more mature. They know the danger, and they stay away from it. But these corporate leaders in the tobacco companies know that if they can get kids to start smoking, they might have customers for life, albeit an abbreviated life for many smokers.

So we see Joe Camel, we see Marlboro's cancer cowboy, and we see all these efforts to glamorize tobacco. For what purpose? Ultimately so the children will try to smoke. Oh, these tobacco companies do a great job. You know what happens? Every single day in America 3,000 kids start smoking for the first time. A third of them, 1,000 of them, will find their lives shortened because of that experience. Kids who become addicted to nicotine become smokers for life. The tobacco companies win. The kids lose. Their parents lose. America loses.

We have a chance this year to change it. But we may blow that opportunity because, unfortunately, this Senate, and the House for that matter, have become tangled up in the politics of this issue and can't see the forest for the trees. If we miss this chance this year to do something about this effort to addict our children, we may never have it again.

The President and Vice President have been leaders on this issue. We would not be here today discussing it were it not for President Clinton's leadership. And we have seen many others, 42 States' attorneys general, who brought lawsuits against the tobacco companies and said, now it is time for you to pay for the damage you have caused to America by tobacco products; now it is time for you to be held accountable for your lies, your fraud, your deception, your advertising directly at children.

So we are here today and the ball is in our court. Will we do something about it? Take a look at this. This is the situation. Here is the 1998 teen smoking report. How many kids will be hooked today? Three thousand. How many kids have been hooked so far this year? Mr. President, 213,000. How many